

GARGOYLES : SATAN LOVES CHURCH BUILDINGS! : PART 1

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Origin Of Church Buildings, Building And Temple Worship,
Destruction Of Herod's Temple, False Murdering Lying Jews
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Albert Pike And Luciferian Doctrine Of Freemasonry Exposed

Quite some time ago, a dear longtime member of my now-defunct private Christian mailing list, the Endtime Discussion Group Exchange -- and a very wise lady whom I respect -- asked me a question which I had never really addressed before. At least I hadn't approached it in the exact same way that I will be answering it in this current series. Her question was as follows:

----- Begin Quote -----

I have been wondering if you have any information on when "church buildings" came into being? I know the early church met in homes and only the teacher/preacher was supported. Now every church has it's own structure where members meet and they have to use their collections to support it. (Sort of like a rebuilt temple, where all the monies were given for its upkeep and support of the Levites.)

As far as I can determine, the 3rd or 4th century is most likely where they developed. Can you shed any light on this? The reason I am concerned is, my kids belong to churches with beautiful structures, which cost them plenty bucks monthly. But what about the members?

----- End Quote -----

Due to our knowledge of the Scriptures, one thing upon which she and I can both agree, is that building and meeting in fancy church buildings was not the Original Plan which was laid down by Jesus Christ and His First Century followers.

In fact, as some of you may already know from reading a few of my other articles, it was the worship of the temple in Jerusalem -- not the worship inside the structure, but the worship of the beauty of the structure itself -- as well as the fact that the ancient Israelites built other temples on the hilltops of Israel in order to honor the pagan gods, which got them into serious trouble with the Lord time and time again. This is a topic which I discuss at length in the series "The Fruits Of Disobedience".

The Prophets of old, Jesus Himself, and His Disciples all condemned the worship of man's creations; particularly his many temples, as we see by the following verses, which leave absolutely no doubt regarding what God thinks of so-called holy structures built in His honor. Please notice in this first verse that we are told that it is when the Israelites became sidetracked building temples to the false gods, that they abandoned serving the true God of Heaven. They must have had quite a building campaign going on back then:

"For Israel hath forgotten his Maker, and buildeth temples . . ."
Hosea 8:14, KJV

Consider now the stinging rebukes written by the Prophet Jeremiah. Called from his youth to serve as a mouthpiece of the Lord, Jeremiah dedicated at least forty years of his life to warning the Israelites to repent. As a result of his dedication and obedience to the Lord, he was mocked by his own people; he was accused of being a spy and a traitor to his own nation, and he was imprisoned on several occasions. In exposing the false religious leaders, and their false system of worship, he wrote such things as the following:

"Trust ye not in lying words, saying, The temple of the LORD, The temple of the LORD, The temple of the LORD, are these."
Jeremiah 7:4, KJV

"The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love to have it so: and what will ye do in the end thereof?"
Jeremiah 5:31, KJV

Both of the previous verses could easily be applied to what we find in modern American Christianity today, which boasts of huge luxurious buildings filled with "wannabe prophets"

who prophesy of "financial blessings", and who perform all kinds of lying wonders like "slaying people in the spirit". God must truly weep; or maybe He is beyond that point! Watch out! For more on the state of modern American Christianity, please refer to articles such as "Have You Been Slain In The Spirit?", "God's Golden Teeth, Or Satan's Delusion?", "Are You Just A Baby Huey?", "Modern False Prophets And Worldly Ecumenism", and "Churchianity Or Christianity: Which Do You Practice?". These articles will inspire the hearts of true God-fearing, Bible-believing Christians, but they will offend the self-satisfied old bottles who prefer their traditions over the truth of God's Word. Which are you?

Turning to the New Testament, Jesus Himself made it very clear to the woman of Samaria -- better known to most people as the woman at the well -- that the worship service being conducted at Herod's temple in Jerusalem was absolutely worthless and meaningless, because it was a dead, spiritless worship of things, and of tradition, and not worship of the true God of Heaven. They were going through the motions of serving God, but without the Spirit, just like so many Christians today:

"Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father. Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth."
John 4:21-24, KJV

In these next verses taken from the Gospel of Matthew, we find the Lord's Disciples falling into the very same trap as their contemporaries: they were admiring the beauty of the temple in Jerusalem. How surprised they must have been when Jesus said the following regarding what was believed to be the very House of God on Earth:

"And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to him for to shew him the buildings of the temple. And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down."
Matthew 24:1-2, KJV

As some of you will know, barely forty years after Jesus uttered those remarks, God allowed General Titus, the son of Emperor Vespasian, and his Roman armies, to enter Jerusalem, and utterly destroy it; including the temple compound. In fact, it has been said that the greedy Romans tore apart the temple block by block, in order to retrieve the gold which had melted down in between them! What a terrible judgment of the Lord, due to their serious backsliding from Him, through their false temple worship! But, as it is written:

"It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God . . . For our God is a consuming fire."

Hebrews 10:31, 12:29, KJV

Moving on to the Book of the Acts of the Apostles, we again see Jesus' words being fulfilled to the letter. Perhaps you recall how in John chapter eight, the Lord very pointedly exposed the true spiritual nature of the Jewish religious leaders of His day. While they claimed to be the children of Abraham, and the mouthpieces of God on Earth -- just like someone else we know today who also sits in a glorious temple in Rome -- Jesus lambasted them with such words as the following:

"Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it. And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not. Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me? He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God."

John 8:44-48, KJV

In Matthew chapter twenty-three, the Lord also accused the Jewish elders of being demon-inspired murderers when He said to them:

"Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell? Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and some of them ye shall kill and crucify; and some of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and persecute them from city to city: That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple

and the altar."

Matthew 23:33-35, KJV

It should not surprise us then, that when one of the Lord's bold New Testament leaders also stood up against the evil leaders of the false Jewish religious system, by quoting apparently from the Prophet Jeremiah, he too was murdered in cold blood by those vile serpents. Exactly what caused dear Stephen to be martyred for the cause of Christ? It was the following words which are the central theme of this series:

"Howbeit the most High dwelleth not in temples made with hands; as saith the prophet,"

Acts 7:48, KJV

So few words, but what a powerful truth they carry; a truth which many worldly, materialistic Christians simply do not want to hear. It should be rather clear to you by now, that is, if you really believe the truth of the Scriptures, that God simply does not like church buildings; period. Not only can they be a distraction from true spiritual worship, but as I point out in the aforementioned articles, they can even lead to full demonic involvement and satanic manifestations, disguised as 'works of God'. At this point, allow me to also encourage you to read my lengthy in-depth series entitled 'Lying Wonders Of The Endtime'. If you as a Christian still doubt that Satan can use the modern church system as his tool, then perhaps I need to remind you of these verses:

"Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!"

Isaiah 5:20, KJV

"For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light."

2 Corinthians 11:13-14, KJV

Make no mistake; Satan knows the Word of God just like you and I. In fact, he undoubtedly knows it much, much better, because he has been quoting it for thousands of years. Did he not use it when he tempted Jesus during those forty days of fasting? The problem is that the Evil One does not accept the authority of that Word in his life. He is in rebellion against God; and we will look at this topic more in just a

moment, in order to see how this all ties together.

To continue then, not only does the Bible tell us to not become involved in temple worship -- or church worship -- but it also very specifically tells us that the True Temple of God is not made of stone or metal, it is made up of us, the true Living Stones, who are filled with God's Spirit. We, our bodies, are the containers of God's Spirit, and NOT some cold, dead church building; and Jesus Christ is the Rock; He is our Cornerstone:

"And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ."

1 Corinthians 10:4, KJV

"Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed. But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:"

1 Peter 2:5-9, KJV

"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

1 Corinthians 6:19-20, KJV

"And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty."

2 Corinthians 6:16-18, KJV

"For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."

2 Corinthians 5:1, KJV

"Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name."

Revelation 3:12, KJV

"And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it."

Revelation 21:22, KJV

In light of all of the Scriptures I have now quoted in this series, how can anyone deny the truths which I have shared here? Sadly, that is a rhetorical question; because I know, and perhaps you know, that there are a lot of spiritually blind people in the world, including many Christians, who resist and rebel against the truth of God's Word; and some of them may very well be the leaders of your church! As Jesus said:

". . . Can the blind lead the blind? shall they not both fall into the ditch?"

Luke 6:39, KJV

So the question which now arises is this: If God is against churches and temple worship, where in the world did the First Century Christians meet? They must have met somewhere. As I point out in "Where Are The First Century Churches?", as well as in a few other articles, a close study of the Scriptures reveals that the forefathers of our Christian faith met in small, intimate groups in the homes of the Believers. This is evident throughout the Book of Acts, as well as in the Epistles of the New Testament. As a short refresher course, following are a few verses which verify this point:

"And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,"

Acts 2:46, KJV

"And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publickly, and from house to house,"

Acts 20:20, KJV

"Likewise greet the church that is in their house. Salute my wellbeloved Epaenetus, who is the firstfruits of Achaia unto Christ."

Romans 16:5, KJV

"The churches of Asia salute you. Aquila and Priscilla salute you much in the Lord, with the church that is in their house."

1 Corinthians 16:19, KJV

"Salute the brethren which are in Laodicea, and Nymphas, and the church which is in his house."

Colossians 4:15, KJV

"And to our beloved Apphia, and Archippus our fellowsoldier, and to the church in thy house:"

Philemon 1:2, KJV

Now, upon reading those verses, some stiff-hearted souls may be tempted to say "Now wait a minute, Bill! Doesn't it say in that first verse that they gathered in the temple?" Yes, it most certainly does; but in response to that, I ask you to consider the time frame. When did that occur? It was during the formative years of our faith when the Disciples still had hangovers from their Jewish upbringing, and did not fully realize what God was doing in creating an entirely new spiritual nation, which would not depend upon earthly trappings. Isn't that basically what Jesus told the woman of Samaria, as we saw earlier?

In other words, the Disciples had not yet been weaned from the old ways of doing things. Not only that, but I am sure that God wanted them to be a full witness to the religious Jews, so that they -- the religious elders -- could be held accountable for the truth, and thus, God could righteously judge them; which He most certainly did in 70 A.D. As I also explain in other articles, God used those initial incidents on the temple grounds as a vehicle to spread the Gospel throughout the Middle East and Southern European areas; and we modern Christians are the result of their exponential effect.

Allow me to also add that, as a long-time Christian myself, who has studied the Scriptures for quite a few years, I have come to understand that God is normally not in the habit of dumping a whole lot of Scriptural truths on us all at once. He must slowly nurture us as we grow in our faith. He tends to teach us new things as we are able to handle them. Even Jesus said on one occasion:

"I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now."

John 16:12, KJV

Consider also the following Scriptures from the Epistles which discuss spiritual growth:

"As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:"

1 Peter 2:2, KJV

"Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing. For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."

Hebrews 5:11-14, KJV

So, if you look at all of the other verses I shared above, regarding meeting in the homes of the Disciples, you will see that they occurred a number of years after that famous Day of Pentecost, when God first began to dispense His Holy Spirit to the New Testament Disciples. What is the purpose of the Holy Spirit? In addition to helping us to be a witness of our faith, one of its purposes is to teach us God's ways, it is our Spiritual Instructor, as we see here:

"But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."

John 14:26, KJV

So, after Jesus' departure from this Earth, and once they

had been filled with the Holy Spirit, the leaders of the Early Church began to understand what God was doing, and how He was operating. They began to understand that they could not be bound by the old ways, and the old ideas, if they truly wanted to be fruitful branches for the Lord. In short, they had to make a serious break with the corrupt, stagnant Jewish system of worship of their day, which depended upon buildings and temples and dead rituals to keep it alive. If you doubt that such things bring spiritual death, then I ask you to consider the following serious warnings which the Lord uttered regarding two of the New Testament churches which did fall back into this very same trap:

"And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead."

Revelation 3:1, KJV

"And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:"

Revelation 3:14-17, KJV

Up until now, everything I have shared in this series are things which I have stated before in other articles, but there is more. A few hours ago, while I was in the kitchen preparing my daughter's breakfast, and thinking on this person's question, the Lord suddenly gave me a flood of new information which, in spite of my many years of knowing Him, and His Word, still gave me quite a spiritual jolt. The essence of what the Lord showed me is this: Satan loves temples. Satan loves church buildings. Satan loves high places. This is so plain in the Scriptures, yet I never saw it as clearly as I saw it this morning. Ever since he was cast out, Satan has been attempting to regain his high place, his throne in Heaven. Consider the following verses which prove this point:

"How art thou fallen from heaven, 0 Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst

weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High."
Isaiah 14:12-14, KJV

"And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven."
Luke 10:18, KJV

"And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night."
Revelation 12:7-10, KJV

"Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:"
Ephesians 2:2, KJV

"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."
Ephesians 6:12, KJV

As I point out in other articles, based upon verses such as the above, it is my personal belief that Satan, the Prince of the Power of the Air, is currently in control of the atmospheric heavens around the Earth. Furthermore, as the false god of this world, I believe that for the time being, the Earth is Satan's domain, until he meets his final doon. Satan is in charge of the "children of disobedience" who currently rule this Earth. This is in accordance with the Scriptures. Please consider these additional verses:

"And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of

the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season . . . And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever."

Revelation 20:1-3, 10, KJV

Now, I would like to ask you to consider a few more facts which will clarify the picture for you even further. Let me begin with a rhetorical question: Why is it that in the Old Testament, as well as in the New Testament, whether we are speaking of the Israelites, or of the pagan nations, they always chose the highest hilltops upon which to sacrifice, and build their temples in honor of their gods? While there are many verses in the Bible which describe these places, and how the Lord utterly hated them because of the spiritual wickedness which dwelt in them, and which was performed at them, allow me to share just a few of them with you:

"Whereupon the king took counsel, and made two calves of gold, and said unto them, It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem: behold thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt. And he set the one in Bethel, and the other put he in Dan. And this thing became a sin: for the people went to worship before the one, even unto Dan. And he made an house of high places, and made priests of the lowest of the people, which were not of the sons of Levi. And Jeroboam ordained a feast in the eighth month, on the fifteenth day of the month, like unto the feast that is in Judah, and he offered upon the altar. So did he in Bethel, sacrificing unto the calves that he had made: and he placed in Bethel the priests of the high places which he had made. So he offered upon the altar which he had made in Bethel the fifteenth day of the eighth month, even in the month which he had devised of his own heart; and ordained a feast unto the children of Israel: and he offered upon the altar, and burnt incense . . . After this thing Jeroboam returned not from his evil way, but made again of the lowest of the people priests of the high places: whosoever would, he consecrated him, and he became one of the priests of the high places."

1 Kings 12:28-33, 13:33, KJV

One verse which rather surprised me is the final one in the last set. In it, we are told that King Jeroboam appointed common men to be the priests of the high places. In other words, he made them priests of the false gods, or if you prefer, priests of Satan, because we all know that Satan is the Prince of the Devils. By itself, that verse may not seem too surprising or significant, if we consider the rest of the verses I am sharing here regarding the sad, backslidden condition of ancient Israel; however, what bothered me up is the verse reference associated with that verse: 13:33.

If you still fail to see the significance of the verse, then allow me to point it out to you more clearly: The number thirteen plays a significant role in freemasonry; and there are thirty-three levels to which an initiate in freemasonry can hope to achieve. Now, despite their denials, it is an established fact that the secret brotherhood of freemasonry is heavily steeped in the occult practices, and worship of Lucifer. While lower level freemasons may be totally unaware of this, the higher level freemasons do worship Satan, and they know it. They are convinced that Lucifer is the true god, and that Jesus and His Father are the usurpers. This was taught by Albert Pike himself.

While the following information is diverting a bit from our main topic of discussion, allow me to share it with you, as it will help you to understand the demonic, secretive nature of freemasonry, and how even its lower level initiates are purposely kept from the deeper truths of the organization. First are a few quotes attributed to Albert Pike, which I obtained from the despatch.cth.com.au website. They are instructions to the twenty-three Supreme Councils of the World, dated July 14, 1889, as recorded by A.C. De La Rive in 'La Femme et l'Enfant dans la FrancMaconnerie Universelle', page 588:

----- Begin Quote -----

"That which we must say to a crowd is - We worship a God, but it is the God that one adores without superstition.

"To you, Sovereign Grand Inspectors General, we say this, that you may repeat it to the Brethren of the 32nd, 31st, and 30th degrees - The Masonic Religion should be, by all of us initiates of the high degrees, maintained in the purity of the Luciferian Doctrine.

"If Lucifer were not God, would Adonay whose deeds prove his cruelty, perfidy and hatred of man, barbarism and repulsion for science, would Adonay and his priests, calumniate him?

"Yes, Lucifer is God, and unfortunately Adonay is also god. For the eternal law is that there is no light without shade, no beauty without ugliness, no white without black, for the absolute can only exist as two gods: darkness being necessary to the statue, and the brake to the locomotive.

"Thus, the doctrine of Satanism is a heresy; and the true and pure philosophical religion is the belief in Lucifer, the equal of Adonay; but Lucifer, God of Light and God of Good, is struggling for humanity against Adonay, the God of Darkness and Evil."

----- End Of Quote -----

Please go to part two for the continuation of this series.

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GARGOYLES : SATAN LOVES CHURCH BUILDINGS! : PART 2

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Freemasonry, Worship Of Creation, Josiah's Repentance, Why High Places, Jesus' Glorious Return, The Real God Of Jewish Temple, Satan's World And High Places, Synagogue Of Satan, Gothic Architecture, Gargoyles And Grotesques - Guardians Of Cathedrals And Churches, Origin Of Gargoyles, Legend Of La Gargouille, Roman Catholic Church Compromise, Flying Demons Legend, Temples Of Demons, Gates Of Hell, Demons Of Japan

Continuing our discussion from part one, and our discussion regarding Albert Pike and freemasonry in particular, allow me to share some additional information with you which I

found on the ritualabusefree.org website. This info is taken from a book entitled "Lucifer - Albert Pike - Eliphas Levi - And The Masonic Lodge". Please note that there are many websites which share this kind of information, but due to space limitations, I can only share a small portion of it with you here:

----- Begin Quotes -----

Chapter One - Eliphas Levi

This study begins with a bold statement: The God of the Masonic Lodge is Lucifer ! This is not a conclusion reached overnight, but one which was drawn from many hours of long study and a thorough examination of the facts. This statement has been made with no qualms or hesitation because the facts will convince one to make such a statement. There have been others that have made this declaration.

In his book, *New World Order: The Ancient Plan of Secret Societies*: William T. Still states: "Though few Masons know it, the god of Masonry is Lucifer."

William Schnoebelen, in his book, *Masonry Beyond The Light*, states: "Set (Lucifer) is the acknowledged god of Masonry."

As far back as 1933, Edith Starr Miller wrote:

"Many authors have published books on Freemasonry, some printing the rituals, some their personal observations on certain facts, but few of these authors, having themselves passed into occult masonry, the real masonry of the Cabalistic degrees which is in touch with all secret societies, Masonic as well as non-Masonic, have been able to state that Luciferian Occultism controls Freemasonry."

In his book, *The New World Order*, A. Ralph Epperson states:

"The Masons know that they must conceal their horrible secret from the people. That secret is simply the fact that certain of their members worship Lucifer. And that they keep that secret from the overwhelming majority of their own members. And certainly the public is not to know this fact."

In this study we are going to show the connection between Eliphas Levi, one of the most prominent occultists of all time - and Albert Pike one of the most prominent Freemasons

of all time. The degree of influence that Eliphas Levi had upon Albert Pike is so great that it should make any thinking Freemason pause to consider what he is involved in.

Albert Pike has been introduced to you as a Freemason; and Eliphas Levi as an occultist. The facts are: Albert Pike was an occultist and a Freemason; and Eliphas Levi was also an occultist and a Freemason. When seen in this light, the attraction that Albert Pike had for the bizarre writings of Levi is not so hard to understand.

The Dictionary of Satanism says of Levi:

LEVI, ELIPHAS French magician and author of works on the occult. Eliphas Levi, whose real name was Alphonse Louis Constant, claimed to have summoned up the ghost of Apollonius of Tyana in London in 1854. Born in Paris about 1810, he is said to have been reincarnated as Aleister Crowley.

Aleister Crowley was the most influential Satanist of all time and Eliphas Levi had such a profound influence on Crowley, that Crowley actually believed that he was Eliphas Levi reincarnated. The influence of Levi can be seen not only on Freemasonry, but also upon modern Satanism. It can also be said of Crowley that he was an occultist and a Freemason. John Charles Cooper said of Levi:

"He popularized occultism in Europe, and through Aleister Crowley, in America. Levi stressed magic as a means to power and emphasized sex and drug abuse."

Apollonius of Tyrana, who Eliphas Levi claimed to have summoned from the dead, was one of the earliest historical figures that pagans sought to establish as an antichrist. He was born in A.D.16 and was a magician and adept occultist to whom many supernatural feats were attributed. In his book, 'The Phoenix', 33rd degree Mason Manly P. Hall entitles his chapter on Apollonius: "Apollonius, "The Antichrist" "

Apollonius was indeed one of the early foes of Christianity and the early church. The History of the Christian Church, by Philip Schaff, has this information about Apollonius:

The rhetorician Philostratus, the elder, about the year 220, at the request of Julia Domna, the wife of Septimius

Severus, and a zealous patron of the reform of paganism, idealized the life of the pagan magician and soothsayer Apollonius, of the Pythagorean school, and made him out an ascetic saint, a divinely inspired philosopher, a religious reformer and worker of miracles, with the purpose, as is generally assumed, though without direct evidence, of holding him up as a rival of Christ with equal claims to the worship of men.

The Freemason Eliphas Levi certainly looms as a giant in the occult world. Professor Carl A. Raschke PH.D at the University of Denver said of Levi: "Levi was considered the Michelangelo of the suppressed traditions of "black magic" in the Christian West."

Christian occult researcher, Bob Larson, informs us about Levi's writings:

Following the Middle Ages, magical groups were persecuted by the Roman Catholic church as heretical. With the rise of eighteenth century rationalism, formerly esoteric associations began emerging again. The Societas Rosicruciana (Rosicrucians) appeared, and the Kabbalistic writings of Eliphas Levi surfaced. All insisted that ritual magick was the universal world religion, with entities on astral planes the source of undeniable spiritual truth.

And with all of his other activities, Levi was an active Freemason who wrote on Freemasonry with the same ease that he did his other occult activities. "....., Eliphas Levi became a Mason on March 14,1861 being initiated in the Lodge Rose du Parfait Silence of which Caubet was the Venerable."

Certainly the greatest contribution that Eliphas Levi made to Satanism was his engraving of the Baphomet.

The French occultist Alphonse-Louis Constant (a.k.a. Eliphas Levi), who influenced twentieth-century satanism considerably, bought almost completely into the thesis that Templars were diabolists. And his engraving of the Templar idol Baphomet has become a classic article of iconography for today's black magicians, a sort of satanist Mona Lisa.

At almost every Satanic ritual where sacrifice and praise is offered to Satan, the influence of the Freemason Eliphas Levi can be felt. The Satanic Bible explains the importance of the Baphomet (picture on page 3) to the Satanic ritual:

The symbol of Baphomet was used by the Knights Templar to represent Satan. Through the ages this symbol has been called by many different names. Among these are: The goat of Mendes, The Judas goat, and perhaps most appropriately, The Scapegoat. Baphomet represents the Powers of Darkness combined with the generative fertility of the goat... The symbol of Baphomet is placed on the wall above the altar.

----- End Quotes -----

What American Christians might find particularly alarming, is the fact that Washington politics are rather heavily influenced by the Freemasons. I witnessed proof of this firsthand via an alarming video which was aired on CSPAN a number of years ago, in which masonry rites were performed during the anniversary of the founding of the United States of America. I may still have it on my hard drive. Thus we have the marriage of politics and satanic worship. Isn't this what Jeroboam and other rebellious and backslidden Israelite kings did when they encouraged satanic worship on the high hills of Israel? Following are a few additional verses which clearly show how the Israelites worshiped the false gods of the pagans:

"And the children of Israel did secretly those things that were not right against the LORD their God, and they built them high places in all their cities, from the tower of the watchmen to the fenced city. And they set them up images and groves in every high hill, and under every green tree: And there they burnt incense in all the high places, as did the heathen whom the LORD carried away before them; and wrought wicked things to provoke the LORD to anger . . . Howbeit every nation made gods of their own, and put them in the houses of the high places which the Samaritans had made, every nation in their cities wherein they dwelt."
2 Kings 17:9-11, 29, KJV

Perhaps one of the worst of Israel's kings -- in addition to Jeroboam and Ahab -- was King Manasseh; because he defiled the very temple of the Lord with his blatant worship of the host of heaven, as we see in the following verses:

"Manasseh was twelve years old when he began to reign, and reigned fifty and five years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Hephzibah. And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, after the abominations of the heathen,

whom the LORD cast out before the children of Israel. For he built up again the high places which Hezekiah his father had destroyed; and he reared up altars for Baal, and made a grove, as did Ahab king of Israel; and worshipped all the host of heaven, and served them. And he built altars in the house of the LORD, of which the LORD said, In Jerusalem will I put my name. And he built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the LORD. And he made his son pass through the fire, and observed times, and used enchantments, and dealt with familiar spirits and wizards: he wrought much wickedness in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger. And he set a graven image of the grove that he had made in the house, of which the LORD said to David, and to Solomon his son, In this house, and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all tribes of Israel, will I put my name for ever:"

2 Kings 21:1-7, KJV

Following is one more example which demonstrates how, as the Apostle Paul would write many years later, they worshiped the creation more than the Creator. In other words, they made gods out of the sun, moon, planets and stars. Thank God that King Josiah was one king who still feared the Lord, and tried to set things right. Sadly though, Israel had already passed the point of no return; and judgment eventually came through the Babylonian invasion:

"And the king stood by a pillar, and made a covenant before the LORD, to walk after the LORD, and to keep his commandments and his testimonies and his statutes with all their heart and all their soul, to perform the words of this covenant that were written in this book. And all the people stood to the covenant. And the king commanded Hilkiah the high priest, and the priests of the second order, and the keepers of the door, to bring forth out of the temple of the LORD all the vessels that were made for Baal, and for the grove, and for all the host of heaven: and he burned them without Jerusalem in the fields of Kidron, and carried the ashes of them unto Bethel. And he put down the idolatrous priests, whom the kings of Judah had ordained to burn incense in the high places in the cities of Judah, and in the places round about Jerusalem; them also that burned incense unto Baal, to the sun, and to the moon, and to the planets, and to all the host of heaven. And he brought out the grove from the house of the LORD, without Jerusalem, unto the brook Kidron, and burned it at the brook Kidron, and stamped it small to powder, and cast the powder thereof

upon the graves of the children of the people."
2 Kings 23:3-6, KJV

In answer to the question which I posed in part one, it is my personal belief that one reason why both the Israelites and the heathen chose such high places, or mountaintops, to perform their abominations, is simply because that is the closest they could get to their gods which came down from the sky, and/or which were in the sky. On the positive side of this argument, didn't Jesus in fact literally come down from the sky, from the Heavenly Realm, in order to inhabit human flesh? Did He not return to Heaven in the very same manner; and are we not told that He shall return in that very same manner once again in the near future? Consider these verses:

"And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory."
Matthew 24:30, KJV

"Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven."
Matthew 26:64, KJV

"And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory."
Mark 13:26, KJV

"And Jesus said, I am: and ye shall see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven."
Mark 14:62, KJV

"And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven."
Acts 1:9-11, KJV

"Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord."

1 Thessalonians 4:17, KJV

"Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen."

Revelation 1:7, KJV

Let us move on to another fact. If Jesus very openly told the Jewish elders that they were the children of the Devil, what does that infer regarding the false religious system which they thrust upon the people of their day? In fact, what does that imply about the very temple complex itself? If they were of the Devil, and if their system was a false one full of lies, deception, hypocrisy and murder, who was really in charge of their temple, and who was the real god of their temple? Certainly not the God of gods. Need I say more?

Now to fact number three. During Jesus' forty days of being tempted by Satan, where did the Devil take Him, and what did he say to Him? The Scriptures I am about to share with you once again show what spiritual force was truly in control of the political system of that day, as well as the organized religious system, with its beautiful, richly decorated temple and buildings. As you read the following verses, ask yourself: How can Satan offer that which is not his to give? Do you see my point?:

"And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it . . . And he brought him to Jerusalem, and set him on a pinnacle of the temple, and said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down from hence:"

Luke 4:5-6, 9, KJV

So, not only does Satan like high mountains and other high places, but he also liked Herod's temple -- and he probably liked Herod too. If the temple in Jerusalem was still truly the House of God at that time as the Jewish elders claimed, do you honestly think that God would have allowed Satan to defile it with his evil presence as he did that day when he

took Jesus up there? I don't think so. It would be similar to Satan trampling in the Holy of Holies in the Tabernacle of the Old Testament. You simply can't tread on turf which doesn't belong to you, and where God is, is Holy Ground. So, I suspect that the temple was already a part of Satan's domain. In fact, it may be that it was even his spiritual headquarters upon Earth. Could that possibly be why God had it utterly destroyed in 70 A.D.? Could it be that the Lord was not only destroying the primary symbol of the false Jewish religious system, but He was also dealing a heavy blow to Satan's pride as well, by striking at the very heart of his earthly operations? Let us not forget that in the Book of Revelation, the Lord, through John the Beloved, referred to the Jewish synagogue as "the synagogue of Satan":

"I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan."
Revelation 2:9, KJV

"Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee."
Revelation 3:9, KJV

There are yet a few more points which I wish to make in this series, and they have to do with our modern day. As we have already seen, the Devil was, or will be -- depending on your personal belief -- cast out of Heaven. He obviously realizes that he cannot return there, so he decided to do the next best thing, at least in his eyes: he made himself the god of this world. From thousands of years ago until today, he has encouraged people to worship him under different names, and in different forms, upon the highest hills and mountains of the Earth. But this satanic worship is not just limited to such physical places; he is also worshiped in political and religious high places as well, not to mention the financial strongholds of the world. It is this last point upon which I wish to expand a bit more.

Some of you reading this series are undoubtedly familiar with Gothic architecture, which is characterized by pointed arches, flying buttresses and ornamental carvings. Many of the older buildings in Western Europe reflect the Gothic style, such as some of the well-known cathedrals -- Notre

Dame in France for example -- churches, and universities. Some of these famous edifices tend to have a dark, gloomy aura about them, and thus have become popular backdrops for horror films, and films about the occult. The Gothic style of architecture also spread across the ocean, and is found in many buildings which populate large American cities, such as New York and Philadelphia. This modern version of Gothic architecture is often referred to as Neo-Gothic.

If one were to take the time to examine some of these old buildings more closely, particularly their upper extremities, he would quickly discover why they possess such a dark air about them. High above the busy city streets over which they tower, the keepers of these gloomy abodes reveal themselves in all their hideous glory: crouched or extended animal and human forms, many of which possess clawed hands, hooved feet, reptilian scales, horns, membranous wings, and scowling and distorted faces. I am of course referring to those ugly stone-carved demons commonly known as gargoyles.

One must truly wonder why the designers of these buildings, and I'm referring more specifically to the great cathedrals and churches, would choose to grace their structures, which are supposedly the houses of God, with such evil, demonic-looking creatures. Upon surfing the web, I discovered quite a bit of interesting information. The word "gargoyle", as well as its close relative, "gargle", share a common root; that is, the French word "gargouille", which means "throat". The word "gargoyle" also finds its origin in the Latin word "gurgulio", which also means "throat", as well as refers to the gurgling sound made by water as it passes through a gargoyle. This makes perfect sense when you understand that the very first gargoyles were wooden structures which were used as waterspouts, or drainage pipes, to keep rain water off of, and away from, the roofs and foundations of church buildings of the Middle Ages. The information I uncovered states that the very first gargoyles made their appearance in Paris, France around 1220.

However, the practical role of gargoyles as drainage pipes soon expanded to include something much more deceptive, and sinister, and it was all orchestrated by a culprit which I expose in several of my articles; that is, the Roman Catholic Church. According to one source, the Northstar Gallery web site, the origin of the gargoyle as a long-necked dragon, traces back to prior to the year 600. Their site states in part:

----- Begin Quote -----

Legend has it, that a fierce dragon named La Gargouille described as having a long, reptilian neck, a slender snout and membranous wings lived in a cave near the river Seine. The dragon caused much fear and destruction with its fiery breath, spouting water and the devouring of ships and men. Each year, the residents of Rouen would placate Gargouille with an offering of a victim, usually a criminal, though it was said the dragon preferred maidens. Around 600, the village was saved by St. Romanis, who promised to deal with the dragon if the townspeople agreed to be baptized and to build a church. Romanus subdued the dragon by making the sign of the cross and then led the now docile beast back to town on a leash made from his priest's robe. La Gargouille was then burned at the stake, it is said that his head and neck were so well tempered by the heat of his fiery breath, that they would not burn. These remnants were then mounted on the town wall and became the model for gargoyles for centuries to come.

----- End Quote -----

As I point out in other articles, such as the series "Our Pagan World: The Easter Myth Exposed!", during the formative years of the Roman Catholic Church, that is, from the time of Emperor Constantine and onward, its leaders seriously compromised Christian doctrines and beliefs, in order to remain friends with the pagan world, and thus more easily spread their sphere of power and influence throughout the Roman Empire. Instead of telling would-be Catholics that they had to abandon their pagan ideas and beliefs as they should have done, the Roman Catholic hierarchy incorporated some of those beliefs and imagery into their own body of doctrines, in order to entice the pagans into joining the Roman Catholic fold. It makes perfect sense then that a legend involving a Roman Catholic priest, St. Romanis, who leads the pagans to victory and "salvation" would develop over time. You need to remember that the people of the Middle Ages were extremely superstitious. They not only looked to God, but they also looked to other supernatural beings for protection, as well as for answers to their problems.

So, what began as simple wooden drainage pipes on churches and cathedrals, soon evolved into durable stone structures.

Then those stone drainage pipes became more decorative in form, and eventually were designed in the shape of hideous creatures which the illiterate pagans recognized as their very own protectors. "Perhaps this new religion -- that is, Roman Catholicism -- isn't so bad after all", they may have thought to themselves; and thus the trap was set. In fact, according to a legend which developed at that time, it was believed that these grotesquely shaped stone creatures came alive at night while people were asleep, and would actually fly over the territory they controlled in order to protect their flock of believers. At sunrise, they would once again return to their lofty abodes, where they would rest until the following night. Let me also mention here that some of these stone statues were no longer even used as drainage systems. They were simply designed for the spiritual effect they had on the people, and the control which they gave the Roman Catholic Church over the masses. These types of decorative gargoyles are referred to as "Grotesques".

Now, if what I have just shared with you isn't a perversion of the Christian Gospel, then I don't know what is. Imagine; a supposedly Christian organization, that is, the RCC, using flying demons of the night to convince the people that they are being protected from other demons. Can you think of anything more ironic? I am reminded of what the Scribes and Pharisees said about Jesus. They said:

". . . This fellow doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils."
Matthew 12:24, KJV

Are the Roman Catholics doing anything different when they lie to their followers, and tell them that the demons on their church roofs are protecting people from demons? It is the most absurd thing I have ever heard. If Jesus Christ or His First Century followers were to come to one of our big modern cities, and see those churches and cathedrals adorned with all of those hideous statues, do you honestly believe for a moment that they would think that they are houses of God? Of course not! They wouldn't hesitate to call them what they are: temples of demons! Yet millions of spiritually blind people worldwide go to those buildings every year, convinced in their minds and hearts that they are entering the very presence of God. Oh, they are entering the presence of "God" alright, but which one is it? As I was writing this series, I was also reminded of the following words of our Lord:

"And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

Matthew 16:18, KJV

So we must ask ourselves: Is the worldwide Roman Catholic Empire truly the Church founded by Jesus Christ and His followers? Is the "Holy Mother Church" truly the "gate to Heaven" and the only way to receive Salvation as the RCC hierarchy claims; or is it really the gate to hell; and are all of those demonic gargoyles there, not to protect people as the legend claims, but really to protect Satan's domain, the churches and cathedrals themselves? Quite frankly, if I were a person who was still lost in the world without Jesus Christ, and if I was looking for the truth, I can tell you right now that seeing such hideous figures perched on these edifices high above the streets would not convince me that I was entering the very presence of God; at least not the God that I now worship!

It may surprise you to know that the Roman Catholics are not the only ones who believe in using demons to protect people from other demons. During my days as a foreign missionary, I spent almost three years living in Japan, a country which is literally filled with many demons, and very few Christians by comparison. When I was there almost two decades ago, under one per cent of the population professed to believe in Jesus Christ. At any rate, whether it is in a public place, or in one's home, they have these hideous demonic looking heads which sport a fierce look and a very long nose. Quite often they are red. The ones displayed in public can be very huge. If I recall correctly, the idea is that if they are ugly enough, they will scare away any demons from one's home or place of business. Doesn't that sound like demons casting out demons?

Before leaving this topic behind, allow me to share another powerful thought. This is something which came to me only a few minutes ago when I went to the kitchen to prepare myself a cup of hot tea. When this thought occurred to me, it was just as astounding to me as the revelation I received this morning when I realized how Satan absolutely loves elevated places, mountaintops and church buildings. Let me ask you a simple question: Do you believe that the legend I shared a moment ago regarding flying gargoyles in the night is dead in our modern day? If you answered "yes", you are mistaken.

There is a popular urban legend which has been embraced by millions of people in the United States of America -- and perhaps elsewhere as well -- which, while not seeming to be intentional, appears to be patterned after the tale of the protective gargoyles.

A number of years ago, several decades ago actually, the movie industry realized that there was a lot of money to be made from bringing our childhood comic book heroes to the big screen. "Superman", starring Christopher Reeve -- who was bound to a wheelchair due to an equestrian accident he suffered during the 1990s, and who is now deceased -- was one of the first movies to use amazing special effects to bring a superhero to life. I remember seeing the movie in Denver, Colorado in 1974 I believe, and I enjoyed it very much. Since that time, a host of other superheroes have likewise made their way to the silver screen.

Please go to part three for the continuation of this series.

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GARGOYLES : SATAN LOVES CHURCH BUILDINGS! : PART 3

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Batman: Is He A Reflection Of An Old Legend?, New York City Is Batman's Gotham, Demon-Possessed Babylon The Great, New York City: A Haven Of Spiritual Goats, The Origin Of Church Buildings, Pre-Roman Catholic Christian Persecution, Emperor Constantine And Queen Helena, History Of The Church of the Holy Sepulcher, Millennial Rule Of Christ And The Byzantine Empire, Christian Poverty, The Roman Catholic Church Becomes Sidetracked In Empire And Temple Building, True Dedicated Missionaries Of Jesus Christ, Closing Remarks, Reading List

Continuing our discussion from part two, quite a few years ago, another caped superhero earned the movie industry a

huge profit. His name is Batman; a caped -- it was wings in the original Bob Kane drawings -- superhero with a head covering like a bat. Batman's place of residence is Gotham City, a large metropolis filled with corruption and Gothic architecture. His self-appointed job is to protect the citizens of Gotham City from evil villains. His motive is revenge for the death of his parents when he was a child. He performs his good deeds during the night hours while most citizens of Gotham City are asleep. He performs his amazing feats by suddenly swooping down from the high places in Gotham City and catching the villains off guard. During the daylight hours, Batman's amazing costume rests in a special enclosure while he assumes another identity, that of Bruce Wayne. Now, you tell me; is all of that coincidental, or is there something more at work here than what meets the eye? I find the similarities between Batman and the gargoyles legend to be rather disconcerting.

Consider also that Gotham City was not just the invention of New Yorkers Bob Kane and Bill Finger, the creators of the Batman character. It is in fact New York City, which, as I stated earlier in this series, is literally filled with Gothic architecture and gargoyles, including the famous St. Patrick's Cathedral. The Museum of the City of New York website explains that the word "gotham" is of Anglo-Saxon origin and means "goat town". The Time Magazine website adds that there is a village in England named Gotham. This name came to refer to New York City when writer Washington Irving used it in a satirical sense in his 1807 series "Salmagundi: or, the Whim-whams and Opinions of Launcelot Langstaff and Others", and it has stuck with the city ever since. Thus, there have been a number of books and exhibitions about the history of New York City, such as "Gotham: A History Of New York City to 1898", "Gotham Comes Of Age", "Gaelic Gotham: A History of the Irish in New York" and "Unearthing Gotham", to name a few.

You will also find the Gotham Center for New York History in NYC, as well as quite a few businesses which incorporate the word 'Gotham' in their names, such as the Gotham Limousine service, the Gotham City Online retailer and others. I also discovered an online news site called Gotham Gazette, which is operated by the Citizens Union Foundation of the City of New York. In a number of news articles I read about New York City, the writers also refer to the city as Gotham, and a CNN profile of the city also refers to it as Gotham.

So while the original Batman was based upon several borrowed ideas, such as a 1926 movie which highlighted a villain known as The Bat, as well as another caped hero of the night known as The Phantom, is it possible that in a strange way, Batman may also be symbolic of the demonic forces which control and protect that evil city which is the commercial center of the world? And speaking of gargoyles and demons, many people are convinced that the mysterious city, Babylon the Great Whore, which controls the trade and finances of the world, finds its fulfillment in New York City. Like New York City, which is filled with demonic gargoyles, the Book of Revelation tells us that Babylon is 'the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird':

"And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird."
Revelation 18:2, KJV

As a final thought on the topic of Gotham and New York City, while I don't know exactly why Washington Irving referred to New York City as Gotham, or "Goat Town" -- I haven't read his work -- I do find it ironic that this city is filled with, as well as controlled by, spiritual goats who for the most part reject the Divinity and Savior role of Jesus Christ. I am of course referring to the money-minded, and power-hungry Jews. What did Jesus say in His Parable at the end of Matthew chapter twenty-five?:

"When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left . . . Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels . . . And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal."
Matthew 25:31-33, 41, 46, KJV

So reiterating what I have already stated in this series, what we have seen, is that Satan is the false god of this current world. As the ruler of this world, he controls its finances, politics, and its false religions, such as Roman

Catholicism. Manifestations of his evil presence are found in many major cities across the globe, through the demonic gargoyles which adorn countless of man's buildings, which sadly includes many churches and cathedrals. It makes me wonder how many of them may truly have bats -- demons -- in their belfries.

In answer to the question regarding when church buildings became an established part of the Christian faith, I would have to concur with the person who asked me this question. It would seem that once the Catholic hierarchy had begun to amass its wealth through its compromise and affiliation with the pagan Roman Empire, then it had the means to begin the widespread construction of its edifices. As I noted earlier, this would have been around the time of Emperor Constantine. It does not make sense that it would have been possible for Christians of any kind to have built church buildings before that time for several reasons; the main one being that early Christianity was still a persecuted and illegal faith in the countries controlled by the Roman Empire, prior to the time of Constantine.

Many of you are aware of the great persecution which was instigated by mad Emperor Nero during his brief, bloody reign. Several decades later, around the year 90 or 100, we also read in the Book of Revelation how the Apostle John was exiled to the Aegean isle of Patmos because of his faith:

"I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ."
Revelation 1:9, KJV

So, considering that the Romans -- instigated by the Jewish elders -- took upon themselves the job of crucifying Jesus, and continued to persecute the Christians for many years after that, in my mind, it just doesn't seem possible that the Christians could have built church buildings, even if they had wanted to, which I don't believe they did. In my view, anyone who says otherwise doesn't know the Scriptures very well, and may be listening to a distorted version of history propagated by the Roman Catholic Church; and that includes the unsubstantiated claim that Peter went to Rome and become the first Bishop, later to be called the Pope.

While I honestly do not know which was the very first church

building ever built, the following information suggests that it may have been the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, built by Constantine's mother, Queen Helena:

----- Begin Quotes -----

From the israel-mfa.gov.il website:

Jerusalem - The Church of the Holy Sepulcher

Constantine the Great was the first Roman emperor to adopt Christianity; he made it the official religion of the Roman Empire. Constantine started his career as ruler of the western region of the Roman empire (306); after defeating his three co-regents, he emerged in 324 as sole emperor, retaining unrivalled power until his death in 337. He made Byzantium his capital, rebuilt it and renamed it Constantinople.

In 326, involved with Christianity and ecclesiastical controversy, he called a meeting of bishops of all the parts of the empire, including Macarius, Bishop of Aelia Capitolina, as Jerusalem was still called. The emperor's mother, Queen Helena, who had converted to Christianity, was much impressed with the bishop's tale of the sad neglect of the sites hallowed by the life and death of Jesus and, with her son's blessings, authority and funds, left to visit the Holy Land.

In Jerusalem she identified the place of crucifixion (the rock held to be Golgotha) and the nearby tomb known as Anastasis (Greek for resurrection). The emperor decided to build an appropriate shrine on the site -- the magnificent Church of the Holy Sepulcher, described in detail by Eusebius, a contemporary historian and biographer.

.....

From the Jerusalem Hebrew University website:

Church of the Holy Sepulcher

After these things the beloved of God carried out another work in the province of Palestine. He thought it his duty to establish a structure that would serve as a subject of universal admiration at the place of the Savior's resurrection in Jerusalem. Therefore, he ordered a house of

worship to be built, all this with God's help and with the inspiration of the Savior himself... Layer after layer of earth was uncovered and thus, contrary to our fears, the place of our Lord's resurrection was revealed. Afterward he informed all the rulers of the East that the building would be larger, more beautiful, and more precious than any other similar building. - Eusebius, Life of Constantine, 340 CE

The building of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher - known to the Byzantines as the Church of the Resurrection (Anastasis) at the order of the Emperor Constantine probably took ten years (326-335). It was a complex of monumental structures, including a rotunda built over the tomb, a great basilica, and columned courtyards. According to a fourth-century Christian tradition, it was Constantine's mother Helena who found the true cross at this site.

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From the bibleplaces.com website:

Church of the Holy Sepulcher

Originally built by the mother of Emperor Constantine in 330 A.D., the Church of the Holy Sepulcher commemorates the hill of crucifixion and the tomb of Christ's burial.

On grounds of tradition alone, this church is the best candidate for the location of these events. The Garden Tomb was not identified as such until the 19th century.

Crusader Facade

The original Byzantine church was destroyed by the Persians in 614 A.D. Rebuilt shortly thereafter, the Egyptian caliph al-Hakim destroyed the church in 1009 and had the tomb hacked down to bedrock.

The Crusaders rebuilt the church and much of what is standing today is from that time period. The ladder in the upper right window has been there since at least 1860, a testimony to rivalries between the church's factions. Place of Crucifixion

Inside the church is a rocky outcropping which is the traditional place where the cross was placed. Archaeological excavations have demonstrated that this site was outside the

city but close to one of its gates and thus would have been a good location for a crucifixion. Today this chapel is controlled by the Greek Orthodox Church.

The Edicule

This structure preserves the location of Christ's tomb. Though the cave here was carved away by a Muslim ruler 1000 years ago, a clear history remains that this has been the revered location of the tomb. Al-Hakim's efforts to destroy the tomb (and Christianity) in 1009 were not the first.

Earlier the Roman emperor Hadrian erected a large platform of earth over the whole area for the construction of a temple to Venus. Jerome adds to Eusebius' statement that a statue of Jupiter was on the site for 180 years (140-320 A.D.). When Constantine converted the empire to Christianity, he had the pagan temples dismantled, the earth removed and a church built over the spot. First-Century Tomb

The best piece of evidence that the tomb of Jesus was in this area is the fact that other first-century tombs are still preserved inside the church. Called the "Tomb of Joseph of Arimathea," these burial shafts (kokhim) are clearly from the time of Christ's death and thus attest to some kind of burial ground in the area. Combined with the evidence from tradition, this church is most likely the true location of the Christ's death and burial.

----- End Of Quotes -----

To add to the information concerning Emperor Constantine, it might interest you to know that I have read certain material which states that a core belief of Roman Catholicism of that time, and perhaps even today, is that the Millennial Rule of Jesus Christ upon Earth was not, and is not, going to occur in a literal sense with the physical Return of Jesus Christ, but rather that His Return has already manifested itself in a more subtle way. That way was through the Byzantine Empire, and its many richly and beautifully decorated cathedrals and churches, which it built across Europe and the Middle East during roughly a thousand year period. That period came to an end with the rise of the Muslim nations; particularly the Ottoman Turk Empire, which, as I point out in my series "The Seven Heads", took upon itself to rename Constantinople, the capital of the Byzantine Empire, as Istanbul. In contrast to the wealth and glory of the so-called Christian Byzantine

Empire, consider what the Bible really teaches us about true Christianity:

"And Jesus saith unto him, The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head."

Matthew 8:20, KJV

"Provide neither gold, nor silver, nor brass in your purses, Nor scrip for your journey, neither two coats, neither shoes, nor yet staves: for the workman is worthy of his meat. And into whatsoever city or town ye shall enter, enquire who in it is worthy; and there abide till ye go thence."

Matthew 10:9-11, KJV

"So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple."

Luke 14:33, KJV

"As sorrowful, yet alway rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things."

2 Corinthians 6:10, KJV

"For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich."

2 Corinthians 8:9, KJV

Is it possible that in its quest to spread and strengthen its worldwide empire through church and cathedral -- basilica -- construction projects, the Roman Catholic Church has fallen into a similar trap as the ancient Israelites?:

"For Israel hath forgotten his Maker, and buildeth temples; and Judah hath multiplied fenced cities: but I will send a fire upon his cities, and it shall devour the palaces thereof."

Hosea 8:14, KJV

As we have already seen, the sedentary Roman Catholic empire was not, and is not, the blue print which was established by Jesus Christ and His first followers. Their calling was to remain as free as possible from Earthly trappings, so that the truth of the Christian Gospel could be more effectively spread throughout the known world of their time, through love and self sacrifice, and not by adopting pagan beliefs,

or by constructing luxurious palaces from the money gathered from the poor, or by the edge of a Crusader sword. The first Christians could not possibly have won the world of their day for Christ, if they had settled down in one place, had become comfortable and self-satisfied, and had enriched themselves at the expense of, and due to the ignorance of, the poor, as the Roman Catholic Church has done, and still does to this very day.

Let there be no mistake. The true Gospel of Jesus Christ has not been spread around the world by large, weighty, rich, lethargic, self-satisfied, organized religion. That honor belongs to the hard-working, self-sacrificing individuals, who have been willing to heed the call of Jesus Christ, and who have been willing to forsake personal comforts, and even their own families when it has become necessary, in order to go to foreign, and sometimes hostile lands, where they have faced dangers, and possibly even sacrificed their lives, for the sake of preaching the Gospel to the lost; even to people who do not appreciate them being there. These are the ones who I believe will receive the greater reward; the frontline soldiers in God's Army. They are there to win souls to Jesus Christ, and not to push a new brand of organized religion on the native population, so that the church back home can boast of how big and wonderful they are becoming.

With these thoughts, I will bring this article to a close. It is my hope that you've found it informative and enlightening, and I pray that it has been a blessing in your life as well. If you have an account with Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr or with any other social network, I would really appreciate if you'd take the time to click or tap on the corresponding link that is found on this page. Thanks so much, and may God bless you abundantly!

For additional information and further study, you may want to refer to the list of reading resources below which were either mentioned in this article, or which contain topics which are related to this article. All of these articles are likewise located on the Bill's Bible Basics web server. To read these articles, simply click or tap on any link you see below.

Are You Just A Baby Huey?

Churchianity Or Christianity: Which Do You Practice?

Freemasonry and the Danger of a One World Religion

God's Golden Teeth, Or Satan's Delusion?"

Have You Been Slain In The Spirit?"
Lies and Deceptions of the Roman Catholic Church
Modern False Prophets And Worldly Ecumenism
Our Pagan World: The Easter Myth Exposed!
Rise of the False Church
The Fruits of Disobedience
Where Are The First Century Churches?

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